

Wildland Firefighters Are Effective

We are attacking these fires, especially fires near communities.

- So far this year, 99.7% of fires are being controlled on the initial attack.
- Firefighters have already contained 343 large fires.
- They have saved dozens of communities.
- On July 10, 360 new fires started; only 3 became large fires



These firefighters are courageous. They work in 100 degree weather near fires burning at degrees in the hundreds. They climb rugged terrain carrying chainsaws and pulaskis. They dig fire lines, light backfires, drive fire engines to the fire's edge. Smoke jumpers even parachute in to the most difficult areas. We are grateful for the work they do.

More Resources Are Available

Funding is \$750 million above 2000.

One reason that our firefighters are effective is because more firefighting resources are available. Between the Interior Department and the Forest Service, the Bush Administration and bipartisan majorities of Congress have provided \$750 million more than the record fire year of 2000.



We have

- 4000 more firefighting personnel
- 377 more fire engines
- 56 more aircraft
- 47 more bulldozers

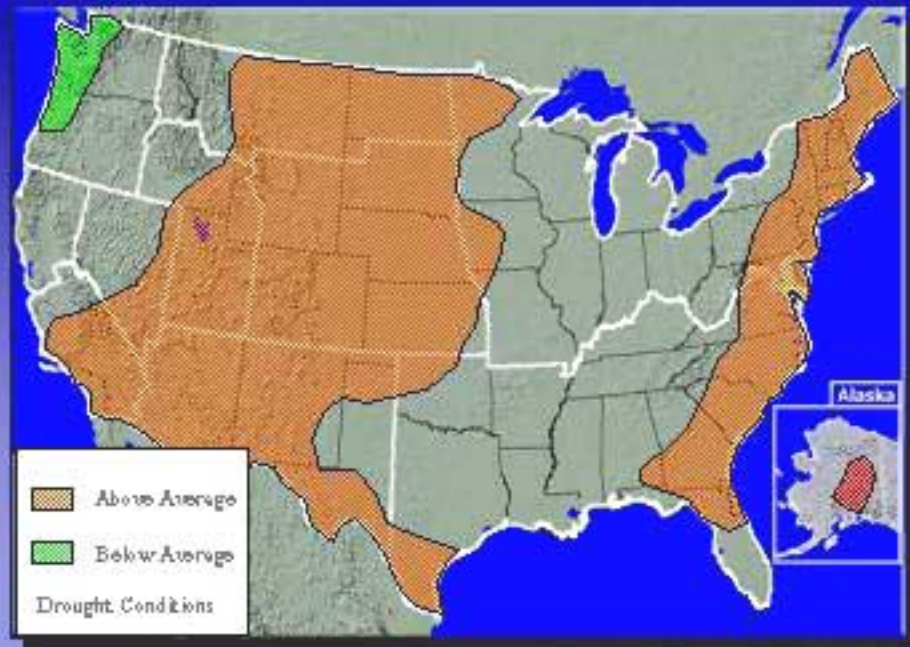


This year Interior and Agriculture are giving states and counties \$145 million in Federal fire fighting assistance like equipment and training. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Administration is providing hundreds of millions of dollars to help state and local governments pay suppression costs.



**Heroic fighting of fires after they start is not enough.
We need to look at the root causes of our susceptibility to fire**

Drought Areas In Red



One reason fires are burning hotter and faster this year is because of drought. Two-thirds of the Nation is experiencing drought, and many places are enduring the worst droughts of the last century. In fact the Colorado River watershed is at just 16 percent of its usual flow. In early June, northern New Mexico reported the snowpack there was an unbelievably low 2% of normal.

The western fire season doesn't usually even start until July 1st. This year, federal agencies declared the highest level of extreme fire emergency 6 weeks earlier than ever before.

But beyond the dryness is the forest density.